

Application No.: 09/653,286
Amendment

REMARKS

Reconsideration of the application in view of the above amendments and following remarks is respectfully requested. No claims are currently being amended or canceled. New claims 30 and 31 have been added. Therefore, claims 1-18 and 20-31 are pending in the application.

Extension of Time

A petition and fee for a three-month extension of time is submitted herewith to extend the due date for response to the Final Office Action until April 19, 2005. Please note that a fee of \$900.00 has been submitted in view of a fee of \$120.00 having already been paid for the petition and fee for a one-month extension of time that was submitted with the response filed on February 18, 2005.

Request for Continued Examination (RCE)

A Request for Continued Examination (RCE) accompanies this amendment.

Written Statement regarding Substance of 2/3/05 Interview per 37 CFR 1.133(b)

Applicants' written statement regarding the substance of the February 3, 2005, telephone interview with Examiner Motilewa Good-Johnson was included in Applicants' response filed on February 18, 2005, which according to the Advisory Action has been considered.

Claim Rejections under 35 U.S.C. § 103

The Examiner rejected claims 1-18 and 20-29 under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. 6,538,666 B1 to Ozawa et al. ("Ozawa et al."). Applicants respectfully

413210_1

Application No.: 09/653,286
Amendment

traverse these rejections.

Regarding the rejections of claims 1-18 and 20-29, Applicants maintain and incorporate herein by reference all of their remarks included in their response filed February 18, 2005.

In particular, Applicants assert that the Examiner's comments in the Advisory Action appear to address only claims 1, 6, 7 and 12. The Examiner's comments in the Advisory Action simply do not address Applicants' arguments with respect to claims 20-29. Specifically, Applicants submit that these claims should especially be allowable because Ozawa et al. simply does not disclose the specifically claimed "place category" and "person category". As discussed in Applicants' previous response, Applicants also explained this to the Examiner during the Examiner telephone interview of February 3, 2005.

More specifically, with respect to Applicants' dependent claims 20-27, the Examiner asserts that Ozawa et al.'s column 4, lines 34-41 discloses the limitations of these claims. However, the cited language simply does not disclose anything about a place category, a person category, or a character, as is recited in these claims. Therefore, Applicants submit that the rejections of dependent claims 20-27 must be withdrawn because the cited portion of Ozawa et al. simply does not disclose or teach the subject matter of these claims.

And regarding independent claims 28 and 29, these claims incorporate the limitations of Applicants' claims 1 and 20 and claims 1 and 21, respectively. Therefore, these claims are allowable over Ozawa et al. for the same reasons provided above for Applicants' claim 1 and dependent claims 20-27.

As such, Applicants submit that dependent claims 20-27 and independent claims 28 and 29 should especially be allowable.

Therefore, Applicants submit that independent claims 1, 6,

413210_1

Page 12 of 14

Application No.: 09/653,286
Amendment

7, 12, 28 and 29 are not obvious in view of Ozawa et al. and that the rejections of these claims, as well as the rejections of the dependent claims, should be withdrawn.

New Claims 30-31

In the above amendment Applicants have added new independent claims 30 and 31, which Applicants submit clearly and thoroughly distinguish Ozawa et al.

New claims 30 and 31 are supported by Applicants' specification at, for example, page 25, line 18 to page 29, line 5, page 33, line 7 to page 34, line 22, and FIG. 16, as well as numerous other places in the specification.

Fees Believed to be Due

A petition and fee for a three-month extension of time to respond is included herewith.

A fee for an RCE is included herewith.

A fee for two (2) extra independent claims and two (2) extra total claims is included herewith.

Application No.: 09/653,286
Amendment

C O N C L U S I O N

In view of the above, Applicants submits that the pending claims are in condition for allowance. Should there remain any outstanding issues that require adverse action, it is respectfully requested that the Examiner telephone Richard E. Wawrzyniak at (858)552-1311 so that such issues may be resolved as expeditiously as possible.

Dated

4/18/05

Respectfully submitted,



Richard E. Wawrzyniak
Reg. No. 36,048

Address all correspondence to:

Richard E. Wawrzyniak, Esq.
FITCH, EVEN, TABIN & FLANNERY
120 So. LaSalle Street, Suite 1600
Chicago, Illinois 60603
Customer No. 22242
Telephone No.: (858) 552-1311
Facsimile No.: (858) 552-0095